

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 IO-14 SSO-00 NSCE-00 CIAE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4632

INFO AMEMBASSY A VARA

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

USMISSION NATO

USUN NEW YORK 1171

AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI

UNCLAS ATHENS 5181

EO 11652 NA

TAGS PINT, GR

SUBJ: KARAMANLIS STATEMENT ISSUED JULY 29

1. SUMMARY. PREMIER KARAMANLIS ISSUED BRIEF STATEMENT JULY 29 INDICATING THAT HE ASSUMED PREMIERSHIP ON CONDITIONS THAT ARMED FORCES WOULD RETURN TO THEIR DUTIES AND THAT ALL POLITICAL FORCES WOULD SUPPORT HIS EFFORTS. SEMI-OFFICIAL ANA POINTED OUT KARAMANLIS MADE STATEMENT TO QUASH INACCURATE REPORTS IN GREEK AND INTERNATIONAL PRESS ON WAY RECENT POLITICAL CHANGE TOOK PLACE AND ON "NEW POLITICAL REALITY IN GREECE." END SUMMARY.

2. TEXT:

QTE ON THE AFTERNOON OF JULY 23, THE MILITARY, JOINTLY WITH THE POLITICAL LEADERSHIP OF THE COUNTRY, ADDRESSED TO ME AN APPEAL TO RETURN IMMEDIATELY TO GREECE AND ASSUME THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE COUNTRY'S ADMINISTRATION. EVALUATING THE CRITICAL CIRCUMSTANCE, UNCLASSIFIED

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AND FULLY CONSCIOUS THAT I WAS FULFILLING A NATIONAL

DUTY, I ACCEPTED THE OFFER.

WHEN I ARRIVED IN GREECE AT 2 A.M., I WENT IMMEDIATELY TO THE POLITICAL OFFICE, WHERE THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC AND THE POLITICAL AND MILITARY LEADERSHIP OF THE COUNTRY WERE WAITING FOR ME, TO HOLD A MEETING. THOSE PRESENT BRIEFED ME ON THE SITUATION AND UNANIMOUSLY APPEALED TO ME TO ASSUME THIS HEAVY NATIONAL MISSION. IN MY WISH TO BE MORE FULLY INFORMED, I RESERVED THE RIGHT TO GIVE MY FEPLY THE FOLLOWING MORNING. HOWEVER, ALL THOSE PRESENT STREESED THAT A NATIONAL NECESSITY MADE IT IMPERATIVE THAT I BE SWORN IN IMMEDIATELY.

BEFORE ACCEPTING, I MADE TWO CONDITIONS:

- 1) THAT THE ARMED FORCES SHOULD RETURN TO THEIR DUTIES, AND SHOULD NOT INTERFERE IN THE POLICY OF MY GOVERNMENT, AND
- 2) THAT THE POLITICAL FORCES OF THE COUNTRY SHOULD ASSIST MY EFFORTS.

THE CONDITIONS WERE ACCEPTED, AND IN MY TURN I ACCEPTED THE MANDATE AND WAS SWORN IN, AS ALL KNOW, AT 5 A.M. ON JULY 24.

I WISH TO STATE THAT THE CONDITIONS HAVE BEEN RESPECTED TO THE LETTER, AND THAT THE GOVERNMENT IS IN FULL CONTROL OF THE SITUATION AND FREELY PLANS ITS POLICY. WITH REGARD TO FUTURE

EVELOPMENTS, I REFER YOU TO THE MESSAGE I BROADCAST TO THE GREEK PEOPLE ON JULY 25. I ADD THAT ALL GREEKS, AND IN PARTICULAR THE PRESS, SHOULD CONSCIENTIOUSLY REALIZE THE GRAVITY OF THE SITUATION AND CONTRIBUTE TO THE CREATION OF A CLIMATE WHICH WILL FACILITATE THE DECISIVE ACING OF THE NATIONAL ISSUE AND ACCELERATE THE PROCEDURE THAT WILL LEAD TO FULL NORMALITY. UNQTE.

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